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REPORT (PART II)

ON

NATIVE-OWNED ENGLISH NEWSPAPERS IN BENGAL

FOR THE

Week ending Saturday, 1st November 1902.

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II.—Home Administration.

(*a*)—*Police.*

1467. The *Amrita Bazar Patrika* expresses its dissatisfaction at the constitution of the Police Commission, especially at the absence of Indian lawyers who are thoroughly experienced in the working of Criminal Courts. The work which the Commission have to do is one which is naturally connected with the question of the separation of the judicial and executive functions, and, therefore, the judicial element should have been better represented.

The Police Commission.

Amrita Bazar Patrika, 21st Oct. 1902.

The journal reiterates its complaint of the shortness of the notice given to intending witnesses, which, it says, will result in few Indian gentlemen appearing to give evidence before the Commission. Also, it suggests that the Commission should frame a set of questions on which witnesses are to be examined.

1468. The *Hindoo Patriot* says that there can be no doubt that public interest could be better served by extending the time allowed for enlistment of witnesses to give evidence before the Police Commission, as the public can ill afford to lose the benefit of the experienced testimony of those competent witnesses whose services could be utilized some time after the 24th October. The President of the Commission should therefore be moved to extend the time acccordingly.

Ibid.

Hindoo Patriot, 22nd Oct. 1902.

1469. The *Bengalee* is afraid that the constitution of the Police Commission does not give satisfaction, though the President is a gentleman who is universally honoured and respected. Also the way in which the Commission has set to work does not inspire confidence. Some witnesses, for the most part officials, have been invited by the Commission to give evidence, while a general sort of invitation has been addressed to the public. Non-official gentlemen, who are entitled to speak with authority on the subject, will not think it consistent with their self-respect to respond to an invitation of this kind. It is only the inferior men who will respond, and the value of their evidence may not be much.

Ibid.

Bengalee, 23rd Oct. 1902.

1470. The *Behar Times* suggests, for the consideration of the Police Commission, the necessity for raising the pay of Sub-Inspectors and Head-Constables entrusted with investigation of crime in thanas, so as to place them above temptation. They are, says the journal, a much-abused class of public servants more sinned against than sinning.

Police reform.

Behar Times, 24th Oct. 1902.

Next, it desires to see the higher ranks of the Police thrown open to educated Indians, and it is sure that ere long a healthy moral tone will be found pervading the entire service, which in integrity and efficiency will not be one whit inferior to the Subordinate Executive and Judicial Services so largely manned by native officers.

1471. With the advent of the Police Commission in Dacca, the *East* considers that the most important point which should be taken up by the Commission is the relation that exists between the District Magistrate and the District Superintendent of Police. The former should, in its opinion, never himself try a case in which a Police officer is concerned.

The Police Commission.

East, 25th Oct. 1902.

1472. The *Amrita Bazar Patrika*, reverting to the subject of the circular of the Government of the United Provinces that criminal cases against Police officers is to be tried by District Magistrates, enquiries whether the object of the Government is to grant extra protection to its people from police oppression, or to give the police extra protection against the evil effects of their own crime. It appeals to Lord Curzon not to permit the operation of this new circular, and to District Magistrates to act the part of philanthropists, *ma-baps* and true Christians.

The circular regarding Police officers being tried by the District Magistrate only.

Amrita Bazar Patrika, 23rd Oct. 1902.

1473. Referring to the charge of assault brought by a European and his wife against Dr. Mittra, a respectable gentleman of Asansol, the *Bengalee* complains of the indignities to which the Doctor was subjected under the orders of the District Superintendent of Police of Burdwan, himself an

The Police and Dr. Mittra of Asansol.

Bengalee, 24th Oct. 1902.

Indian. It wishes to know to what this over-zeal on the part of the District Superintendent of Police is due.

INDIAN MIRROR, 25th Oct. 1902.

Undetected murders in Calcutta.

1474. The *Indian Mirror* complains of the want of detective ability in the Calcutta Police force, which is accountable for three recent murders remaining undetected. It suggests that Mr. Bignell should be his own detective, like Mr. Forjett and Mr. Hartley Kennedy, both Commissioners of Police, Bombay, and that the Police Commission's attention be drawn to the matter.

(b)—Working of the Courts.

AMRITA BAZAR PATRIKA, 21st Oct. 1902.

The Rajshahi case.

1475. The *Amrita Bazar Patrika* is surprised to hear that the Magistrate of Murshidabad, to whose file the High Court transferred the Rajshahi case, has in his turn transferred it to the file of the European Deputy Magistrate at Lalgola. There are many Indian Deputy Magistrates at the Sadar who are competent to try the case, while there are also facilities for obtaining legal help which is absent in the subdivision. But, concludes the articles, the most curious part of the affair is that the complainant in this case, viz., Mr. Ryan, is not in this country. He was quietly sent away to England for 18 months. It is not known how, in his absence, the prosecution will proceed with the case.

BENGALEE, 24th Oct. 1902.

Alleged murder by a European.

1476. The *Bengalee* publishes an account of the fatal assault at Asansol by a European guard, named Corbett, on a *khansama*, and hopes the Burdwan authorities will brush aside all racial considerations and be swayed by no other consideration than that of pure justice. Nothing brings down British rule in India in the estimation of the people more than the way in which these cases are dealt with, and the *Bengalee* is of opinion that if an exemplary punishment were meted out in a few cases, fatal assaults by Europeans on Indians would be a thing of the past.

BENGALEE, 29th Oct. 1902.

"A regrettable contrast."

1477. The *Bengalee* asks the Government to enquire why Dr. Mittra, who was charged with a much less serious offence than that alleged against Corbett, who is accused of culpable homicide, was originally ordered to march 11 miles on foot, which order was subsequently modified and the Doctor allowed to travel 3rd class at his own expense, while Corbett was permitted to travel 2nd class at the public expense.

(d)—Education.

BENGALEE, 22nd Oct. 1902.

The *Times* and the report of the Universities Commission.

1478. The *Bengalee* reverts to the leader in the *Times* on the Report of the Universities Commission, and to its contention that one of the objects of the Report is to prevent, by the suppression of high education, the growth of the educated class who are chiefly disaffected towards the Government, and says that it is nothing less than a baseless calumny to question the good-will of the educated community towards British rule. Such a statement is exceedingly damaging to the Report of the Commission, and lends colour to the opinion that a political object underlies the Report and is concealed from the public view under an academic garb.

BENGALEE, 26th Oct. 1902.

Public opinion and the Universities Commission.

1479. The *Bengalee* points to the public meetings held throughout the principal towns of India to protest against the recommendations of the Universities Commission, and especially to the recent meeting held at Benares, at which several European educationists expressed their disapproval. It is sure that Lord Curzon, who is keenly responsive to the intimations of public opinion, will not ignore this strong expression of public opinion with which European educational experts allowed themselves to be associated.

AMRITA BAZAR PATRIKA, 27th Oct. 1902.

The pronunciation circular.

1480. Without denying the excellence of the intention of the circular, the *Amrita Bazar Patrika* enquires whether the scheme it involves is feasible, and finds that it is not so; nor does it see any necessity for Bengali boys of seven or eight to be taught English as if it were their mother-tongue. Under the existing system, the best Indian graduates have been trained. The innovation proposed will result

in the closing of most of the schools affected and in ruining the systems of Indian youths.

Bengalee, 26th Oct. 1902.

Flagrant favouritism.

1481. Adverting to the announcement that the funds at the disposal of St. Paul's School, Darjeeling, are to be increased during the next three years by annual grants of Rs. 20,000, the *Bengalee* writes:—

It is not stated what the Inspector of European Schools found to recommend in a school which, under the present management, has dwindled from over 200 to barely 80 pupils, and according to rumour, Mr. Newton and his staff have been informed that their services will no longer be required after the present year. Rumour has it also that the grant has been sanctioned by the Government of India, but this is so directly against the rules that we can hardly believe it. We should like to know what are the wonderful educational achievements of St. Paul's to be so favoured by Governmen. Has St. Paul's given a better and higher class education than the Protestant and Catholic high schools and colleges? We believe not. "By their fruits you shall know them," is the true criterion. In this connection we desire to point out that while all the Missionary colleges receive grants-in-aid from Government, not a single Indian college has been the recipient of a similar favour from Government. It is apparently favouritism all over, and even among the favoured *coterie* there seem to be irritating and invidious distinctions made.

Amrita Bazar Patrika, 28th Oct. 1902.

The Universities Commission's Report.

1482. The *Amrita Bazar Patrika* is very much relieved to find that His Excellency the Viceroy has not only kept his mind perfectly open regarding some of the contentious points in the Report of the Universities Commission, but is willing to give every consideration to public opinion on them. It exhorts its countrymen to be up and doing, and to approach His Excellency to point out the dangers that threaten their national education; and to see that, in the name of efficiency, most Indian colleges and schools are not killed.

Bengalee, 28th Oct. 1902.

The Government of India and the Report of the Universities Commission.

1483. The *Bengalee* refers to the Resolution of the Government of India inviting the views of the various Local Governments and Administrations upon some of the most important recommendations of the Commission and approves generally of the opinion expressed by the Imperial Government upon those recommendations. It applauds the action of the Government of India and is convinced that the conclusions they arrive at, after consulting the various Local Governments, will be in entire accord with public opinion.

Bengalee, 29th Oct. 1902.

Ibid.

1484. The same journal compares the declaration of the policy regarding private educational enterprise made in 1882 with the enunciation of the same policy in the Government of India's recent Resolution on the Report of the Universities Commission, and finds the method of enunciation of the same policy substantially different. While in 1882, the Government was anxious to do all that it could to foster a spirit of independence and self-help, in 1902 it dwells with great emphasis upon the need of pruning down the efforts of private enterprise. The policy in 1882 was to encourage private enterprise by all means in the power of Government. The policy in 1902 appears to be to restrain the exuberance of private effort. The policy in 1882 was to stimulate; the policy in 1902 is to restrain. The policy of 1882 did not lose sight of considerations of efficiency. The policy of 1902 dwells with the greatest emphasis upon them. The *Bengalee* agrees with the Government in insisting upon a minimum efficiency; but the question of the efficiency of the Government colleges ought not to be lost sight of. There is a widespread feeling that, in Bengal at least, there has been a deterioration in the efficiency of the Government colleges. It is quite of the opinion that no private institution has a right to exist which does not, in the words of the Government of India, "make provision for efficient management and extended usefulness."

HINDOO PATRIOT, 29th Oct. 1902.

The Government of India and the Report of the Universities Commission.

1485. The *Hindoo Patriot* approves on the whole of the Government of India's letter to Local Governments, but considers it strange that the various Universities, which are the parties really and vitally interested, have not been consulted.

(h)—General.

WEEKLY CHRONICLE, 21st Oct. 1902.

Proposed increment to ill-paid ministerial officers.

1486. Referring to the increase of pay which it is proposed to grant ministerial officers in certain departments of Government in the Sylhet district, the *Weekly Chronicle* (Assam) does not in the first place think the amount sanctioned is adequate for the purpose. It next suggests that the greatest discrimination should be exercised in apportioning increments, so that favouritism does not frustrate the best intentions of the Government. It commends the case of such small-paid clerks as draw Rs. 20 to Rs. 30 a month; the subdivisional Kanungoes, the Nazir, Naib and Nazir.

AMRITA BAZAR PATRIKA, 22nd Oct. 1902.

Slaughter of wild birds.

1487. If the destruction of wild birds, whose feathers, &c., were exported to England, yielded an enormous revenue to India, can be prohibited by executive order, why, asks the *Amrita Bazar Patrika*, cannot the Government likewise prohibit the destruction of domestic fowls and kine and cease to poison a friendly nation like the Chinese with opium. The loss would be enormous, so the Government cannot afford to listen to the dictates of humanity in the last-named case, nor will it stop the slaughter of fowls and kine, though it is a more savage act than the slaughter of wild birds.

AMRITA BAZAR PATRIKA, 22nd Oct. 1902.

Lord Curzon and the Darbar.

1488. The *Amrita Bazar Patrika* expresses the view that the object of Lord Curzon's Coronation Darbar, viz., to secure the attachment and loyalty of the people of India, will fail, as did Lord Lytton's Delhi Assemblage, owing to the absence from the ceremony of the Emperor, whose place His Excellency cannot supply. Yet, thinks the journal, Lord Curzon can give some political status to India by peforming, as his master did in England, some of those religious ceremonies relating to the rights and privileges of His Majesty's subjects.

BENGALEE, 26th Oct. 1902.

British prestige.

1489. While partly agreeing with the idea that the Oriental mind is readily impressed with anything that is showy and strikes the imagination by its sensuous magnificence, the *Bengalee* holds that the Indian imagination was also captured by the reiterated assurance of Englishmen that their domination would be synonymous with the strictest justice and most scrupulous fair play. It was this assurance which formed and now forms the mainstay of British prestige in this country with the great majority of Indian people. Shows are things to which the Oriental is more or less accustomed. To the Oriental, therefore, shows—specially shows got up by Europeans in whom the artistic sense is yet undeveloped—will hardly appeal. What will most successfully appeal to his imagination will be a practical carrying out of the assurance which to every student of national ethics is the sole *raison d'etre* of British rule in this country.

HINDOO PATRIOT, 27th Oct. 1902.

Agricultural problem.

1490. The *Hindoo Patriot* holds that the consensus of Indian opinion points to famines being caused by agricultural failure due, mainly, to the poverty of the people resulting from the decline of arts and industries, the drain of Indian resources, and over-taxation.

Help the agriculturists by taking off the excessive burden of taxation, and they will plod on with a better heart; devise means for intelligent method of work, and success will come as a matter of course.

AMRITA BAZAR PATRIKA, 23rd Oct. 1902.

The Lieutenant-Governor of Bengal.

1491. The *Amrita Bazar Patrika* says that Bengal is now practically without a responsible ruler, and that the Secretaries to Government are, in consequence of His Honour's illness, having it all their own way, as, for example, in the promulgation of the pronunciation circular and the fixing of the date for intending witnesses to communicate with the Secretary, Police Commission.

1492. In view of His Honour's continued illness, it is incumbent, says the same journal, that His Excellency the Viceroy should call upon the Senior Member of the Board of Revenue to help the Lieutenant-Governor in the difficult task of administration. Somehow or other, it says, the Hon'ble Mr. Buckland has rendered himself unpopular with a large section of the officials, and under such circumstances it is not proper to make him the *de facto* ruler of Bengal during Sir John's illness.

The Lieutenant-Governor of Bengal.

AMRITA BAZAR PATRIKA, 24th Oct. 1902.

1493. The *Indian Mirror*, while regretting the illness of Sir John Woodburn, speculates as to who will succeed him. It would prefer Sir Henry Cotton for the reason that when an officer, however wise and good he may be, comes from a different province, he is often a tool in the hands of his Secretaries, as, it says, is Sir John Woodburn himself. It then enumerates the measures by which His Honour's administration has not been the success it would otherwise have been had Sir John Woodburn been more fortunate in the choice of his advisers.

Ibid.

INDIAN MIRROR, 28th Oct. 1902.

1494. The *Bengalee* wonders why the Viceroy busies himself with settling the succession to the Lieutenant-Governorship of Burma and leaves Bengal, which has been without a Lieutenant-Governor for practically two months, on the tenter hooks of suspense. It comments on Sir John Woodburn's determination to attend the Coronation Darbar, and expresses the view that it would be better for Sir John if he retired immediately. It conjectures that perhaps the Government will not nominate a successor until Sir Henry Cotton sends in his papers at the end of the present month, as he is compelled by the rules of his service to do. Once out of the coach, the difficulty will vanish.

Ibid.

BENGALEE, 29th Oct. 1902.

1495. Commenting on the opinions of prominent Indians, collected and published by the *Englishman*, on the subject of the income-tax, the *Amrita Bazar Patrika* says that these opinions will not very much help the movement which has been set on foot to get the tax abolished.

The income-tax.

AMRITA BAZAR PATRIKA, 24th Oct. 1902.

VI.—MISCELLANEOUS.

1496. The *Indian Mirror* thinks that on the whole the prospects of the next session of the Indian National Congress do not loom large either from near or far.

The coming Congress.

INDIAN MIRROR, 22nd Oct. 1902.

1497. The *Bengalee* explains why it was necessary for the British Government in India to introduce Western education, not so much out of pure benevolence as from a sense of absolute necessity. It enquires, however, into the reason why, after so long a connection between the two countries, India is said not to be loyal to Britain with any nobler feeling than that of pure self-interest. The higher loyalty, it explains, is a feeling which can only be evoked by something concrete, whereas the Government of India is a huge abstraction. The Emperor to the Indians is a mere abstraction, and the Government as known in the concrete is the red *chaprassi* and the blue-backed policemen, who are associated in Indian minds mostly with terror and extortion, with humiliation and wounded self-respect.

Indian loyalty.

BENGALEE, 23rd Oct. 1902.

1498. The *Indian Mirror* wishes to know how the *Voice of India* has a place in the Press Camp reserved for Europeans. Mr. Malabari is a Parsi and therefore a 'Native,' professing native sentiments and living in native style. "How does such an ascetic like the idea of being huddled up incontinently among beef-eaters and pork-feeders?"

The Press Camp and Mr. Malabari.

INDIAN MIRROR, 26th Oct. 1902.

1499. The *Amrita Bazar Patrika* enumerates the following privileges, some of which the Viceroy should confer on the occasion of the Delhi Darbar. This will fill the hearts of the people with joy and establish British rule permanently in the country:—

What the people of India want to make them happy under British rule.

AMRITA BAZAR PATRIKA, 27th Oct. 1902.

(1) The military expenditure of the country to be divided between England and India.

(2) The expenses of wars undertaken for the defence of the Empire to be divided between the two countries.

(3) Every appointment, with the exception of the highest posts, should be made over to the children of the soil.

(4) Natives of India should be taught the use of fire-arms and be freely admitted into the military service.

(5) Education should be controlled by the children of the soil.

(6) English should be abolished as the Court language, and the vernacular of the country should be substituted.

(7) A Parliament consisting of two-thirds Englishmen and one-third Indians should be constituted in England for the government of India, and the control of her finances. From the members of this Parliament should be elected a Secretary of State for India.

(8) Princes of India should be allowed to enjoy all their treaty rights.

OFFICE OF THE INSPR.-GENERAL OF POLICE, L. P.,
WRITER'S BUILDING,
The 1st November 1902.

H. B. ST. LEGER,
Asst. to the Inspr.-General of Police, L. P.

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